

The ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

September 1989



Members' Meeting—September

“Song Dialects of Birds Revisited”

Wednesday, September 13 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 14 7:30 p.m.

It has been established that white-crowned sparrows and other birds learn their songs from adults in the population. As a result of this vocal tradition, regional dialects develop as in human cultures. White-crowned sparrows in the unique neighborhoods of San Francisco and on separate islands in San Francisco Bay sing different dialects in each area. Sometimes local birds learn songs from winter migrants and these birds become bilingual.

In his lecture, Dr. Luis Baptista will talk about how birds learn songs and what part songs play in their day-to-day lives. He will also show the similarities between song learning in birds and speech development in children.

Dr. Baptista has studied birds for the past 20 years. He has been an Academy research scientist since 1980 and is currently the Chair of the Department of Ornithology and Mammology.



Judy Merrill

White-Crowned Sparrow

The Academy Store will be open before and after these evening lectures. Members' Meetings will not be held again until November so that members can go behind-the-scenes for our annual Open House in October.

Coming Up—Members' Open House

A reminder to our members that Open House is set for Tuesday, October 10 and Wednesday, October 11 from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. This year's special event for members promises to be more exciting than ever! There will be behind-the-scenes tours of the Aquarium,

visits to all research departments and shows in the Planetarium as well as a chance to learn about the new console and how Planetarium shows are coordinated and performed. Mark your calendars now...more details to follow in the October newsletter.

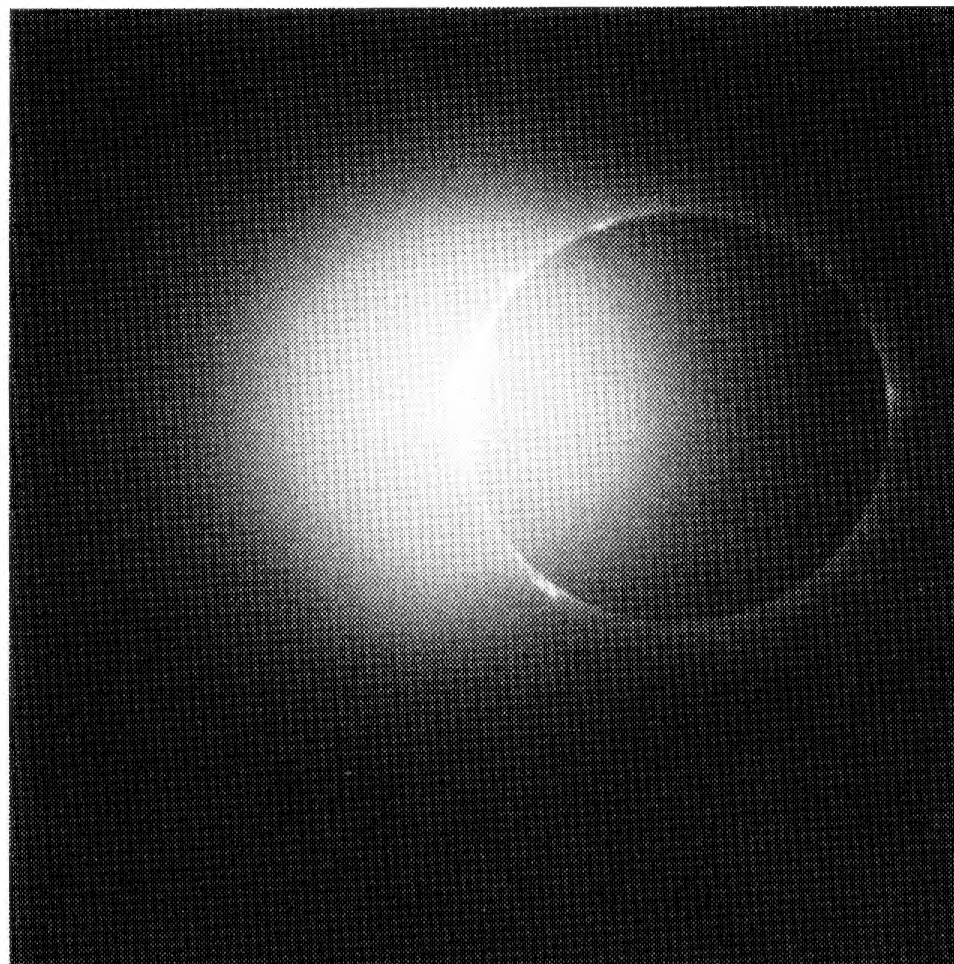
Academy Elects New Fellows

On October 3, Dr. James C. Kelley, President of the California Academy of Sciences, will welcome nine new members as Fellows of the Academy. Fellows are chosen for their contributions to science and active participation in advancing the research and educational goals of the Academy. By charter, the number of Fellows is limited to 300 individuals who are elected for life. The new Fellows are: Dr. Calvin H. Stevens, Professor of Geology, San Jose State University; Dr. Richard A. Tenaza, Professor of Biology, University of the Pacific; Dr. V. Thomas Parker, Professor of Biology, San Francisco State University; Dr. Robert W. Bud-demeier, Chemist, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Dr. Linda S. Cordell, Curator and Chair, Department of Anthropology, California Academy of Sciences; Dr. William H. Kimbel, President and Assistant Director, Institute of Human Origins; Dr. Timothy D. White, Professor of Anthropology, U.C. Berkeley, and Dr. Frank Asaro, Nuclear Chemist, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory; Dr. Bruce M. Bartholomew, Collections Manager, Department of Botany, California Academy of Sciences.

There is also a category of Honorary Fellows who are unable to actively participate, but whose contributions to science merit recognition. The new Honorary Fellows are: Dr. Hugh Bradner, Professor Emeritus, Engineering Physics, U.C. San Diego; Dr. Zhao Ermi, Deputy Director, Chengdu Institute of Biology, Academia Sinica and Professor Maoli Tu, College of Pharmacy, West China University of Medical Sciences.

Each year the Fellows' Medal is awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to science. This year the Fellows Medal will be awarded to Dr. Bruce A. Bolt, Professor of Seismology at U.C. Berkeley, for his lifetime contributions to the field of seismology.

View the Eclipse of 1991 from Oaxaca, Mexico July 8-12



Solar Eclipse

On July 11, 1991, you could be at a special site near Oaxaca, Mexico, to witness the longest total solar eclipse of the sun remaining in this century. This awe-inspiring event occurs in an area known for its beauty and cultural diversity. Oaxaca is the center of a marvelous mixture of many ages: the splendid ruins of the mountain citadel at Monte Alban, the geometric designs of the pre-Columbian buildings at Mitla and much, much more.

At a pre-expedition orientation in the Academy's Morrison Planetarium, tour leaders Lonny Baker of the Academy and Michael Chriss of the College of San Mateo will explore the lore and history of eclipses, simulate the '91 eclipse in the Planetarium sky and show participants how to observe and photograph this event.

We hope you can join us on this once-in-a-lifetime eclipse tour. Sponsored by the Morrison Planetarium and San Mateo Community College District, the price for this excursion is \$1,050, double occupancy and \$1,150, single occupancy. For more information, call (415)750-7325. To request an application, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "Eclipse," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Morrison Planetarium Presents Lecture Series, "Exploring the Universe"

On Tuesday, September 26, the Morrison Planetarium will inaugurate a series of free lectures in the Star Theater that will feature prominent astronomers and planetary scientists.

Dr. David Morrison, Chief of the Space Sciences Division, NASA/Ames Research Center, will begin this series on September 26 with his personal views on the Voyager/Neptune encounter. Following his presentation, Dr. Morrison will sign his most recent book, *Cosmic Catastrophes*, which is now available at the Academy Store.

Additional speakers in this series are:

Dr. Michael W. Werner, "By the Heat of the Night: Infrared Astronomy from Space," October 31

Dr. Michael Lampton, "The Spacelab Missions: The Promise of the Space Shuttle," November 14

Dr. Frank Drake, "Search for Intelligent Life in Space," December 5

This free series is made possible through the generosity of the Benjamin D. Dean Endowment Fund. Due to limited seating, free tickets will be available at the Morrison Planetarium box office one-half hour before the presentation begins. All programs begin at 7:30 p.m. To request a series brochure or free tickets in advance, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to "The Universe," Morrison Planetarium, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA, 94118 and indicate the program you wish to attend and the number of tickets.

For information on additional talks in the series and ticket availability, call the Universe Line at (415)750-7129.

New Sky Show "A Cosmic View"

Opens September 15

Explore our place in space and time...human concepts of time and distance pale by comparison to the immense scale of the universe. How big IS the universe? What are the largest and smallest things we can observe? With the help of the recently installed state-of-the-art planetarium console, this newest sky show will examine these questions more closely, using a wider variety of images and special effects.

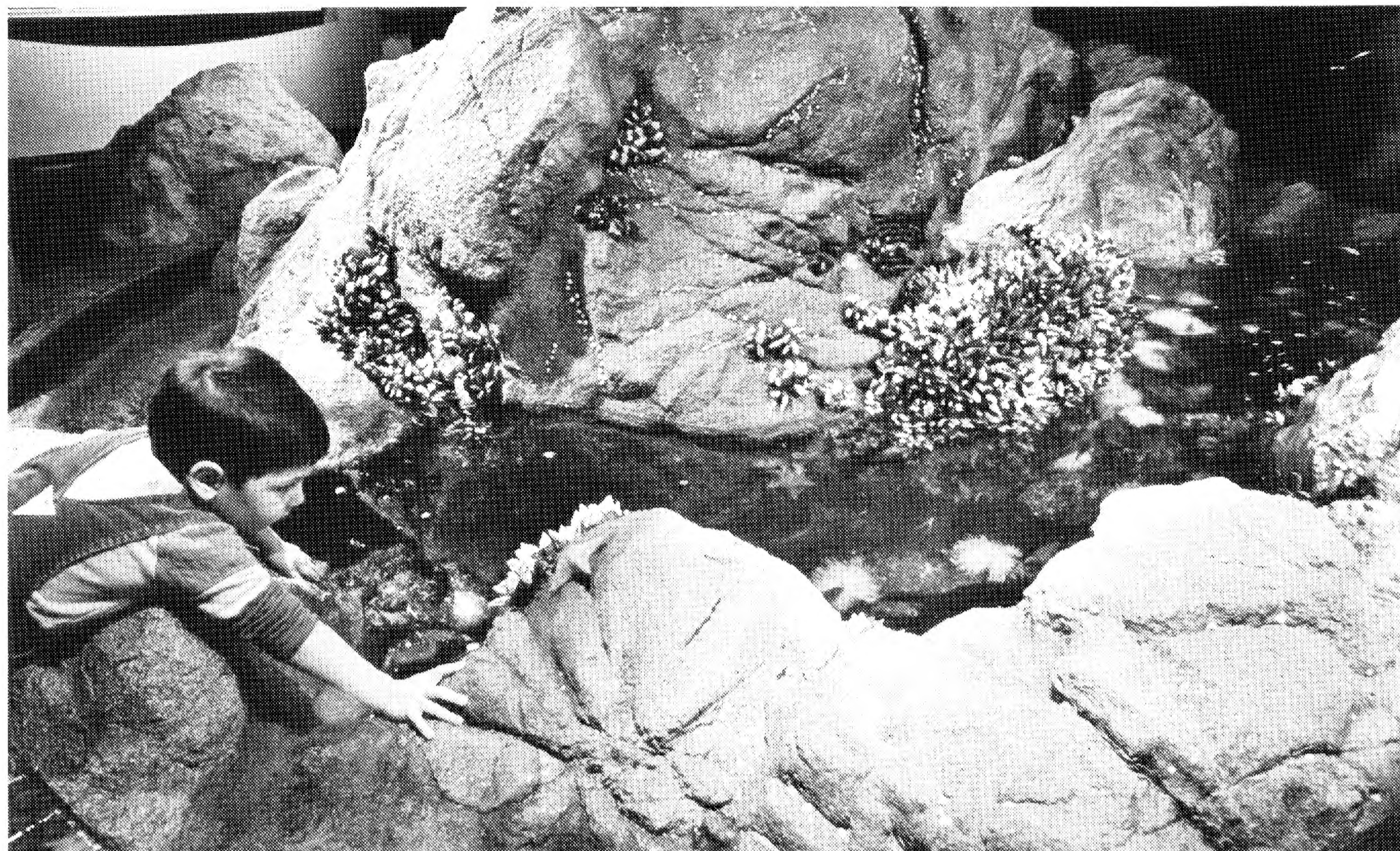
"A Cosmic View," through November 26, will show at 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 and 4:00 p.m. on weekends. Learn about constellations and planets in the current night skies over San Francisco in "Startalk." This brief tour of the heavens is presented every Satur-



Spiral Galaxy

day and Sunday at 12:00 noon. For times and information, call (415)750-7141.

Volunteer Opportunities for Fall



Caroline Kopp

At the Tidepool Touch Tank, volunteers help visitors learn more about the rocky inter-tidal environment.

This Fall, the Academy has a wide variety of volunteer opportunities for anyone who has some spare time and would like to help. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the projects listed below, please contact Rosalind in the Volunteer Services Office, (415)750-7154.

- Enjoy the great outdoors at the Academy's 3100-acre preserve in Sonoma. There will be two group work days at Pepperwood Ranch on Sunday, September 17 and Saturday, October 28, when volunteers are needed to help remove fences and non-native plants, cut brush by trails and roads and clean old homestead sites. At day's end, there will be

a barbecue and stargazing at the Hume Observatory. Limited to 30 people each day.

- Get your hands wet for a good cause! Volunteer supervisors are needed at the Touch Tidepool between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. every day. Orientation date to be announced.
- If you have arts and crafts skills—particularly in painting—and a morning and/or afternoon available Monday through Saturday, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help us build our new permanent exhibit hall, Life Through Time. Help us prepare and paint plants for our exhibit on evolution scheduled to open in the spring of 1990.



Thanks for the Plants

Thanks to those members who responded to our request for plants in the last newsletter. So far, over thirty of you have contacted us with offers for primitive ancestral plants to be used in our new permanent exhibit hall, Life Through Time. We have at this

time selected plants from: Harold Levy, Marion Bellingall, Connie Hormel, Ann Bronner, Maude Vollandri, Dr. & Mrs. Edmund D. Jung, Thor Firing and Diane Coleman. Again, thanks for your enthusiastic responses.



Let Your Dreams Take Wing at

Flights of Fancy

October 19

This fifth annual black-tie event offers a very special evening of dining, dancing and entertainment throughout the Academy on Thursday, October 19. All manner of "winged creatures" will delight and surprise guests. Tickets start at \$175 per person. Proceeds from "Flights of Fancy" will be used to support the on-going educational programs at the Academy. For further information, please call Chadwick & Zimmerman at (415)495-3100.

Academy Library Open on Saturdays

From September 9 through May 26, the Academy Library will be open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. These new hours are being offered as a special service to Academy members, scientists, science teachers, environmentalists, naturalists and others who find it hard to use the Library during regular working hours.

The Academy Library is available as a non-circulating research collection and offers a major research-caliber collection in natural history and the natural sciences. The Library has over 2,100 current journal subscriptions, computer-based reference services and provides access to both print and non-print materials.

In support of this new service, the Academy Library will recruit and train a core group of Library Service Volunteers who will assist the Library staff on Saturdays. Interested volunteers should contact the Library at (415)750-7101 or the Volunteer Office at (415)750-7154.

Traditional Arts in September



Daniel Taurines

Traditional Arts Programs at the Academy bring the world to you! Academy visitors can experience traditional food, dance and folk art from far corners of the globe without leaving home. These special programs take place each Saturday in Wattis Hall and are made possible through a generous gift from the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation. All programs begin at 1:00 p.m. For more information, call (415)750-7142.

September 9—Through his musical repertoire on piano, guitar and vocals, Kerrigan Black traces 300 years of African-American history and covers a variety of expressive styles, from slavery and railroad spiking songs to Motown and rap.

September 16—Judy Frankel plays guitar and sings in Ladino (the language of the Sephardic Jews in Spain); the songs relate to daily life, including lullabies, and ceremonial occasions such as weddings.

September 23—Enter a world of fantasy and laughter with Daniel Taurines. A native of Provence, France, Daniel and his handpuppets will perform "Beauty and the Beast," based on the original French folktale.

September 30—Chinese *wushu* originated as a form of combat but now, choreographed to music, it combines elements of martial arts with acrobatics and Peking opera into a new and visually exciting art form, as demonstrated in this program by Bryant Fong.

Alaska In Recovery: What If It Happened Here?



Suzanne Bottorff

Alaska Pipeline Terminus in Valdez

On Wednesday, October 25 at 7:30 p.m., the Academy and the Golden Gate National Recreational Area will present a panel discussion in the Morrison Auditorium on the Valdez oil spill, the cleanup, and long-term effects upon wildlife in Alaska. Questions about what effects an oil spill could have on San Francisco Bay will also be addressed. Prior to the panel discussion, there will be a cocktail

reception in the Aquarium Roundabout at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets for this presentation are \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. Reception and lecture tickets are \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members.

For more information, call (415)750-7217.

To order tickets, please use the convenient order form below.

Ticket Order Form —

Alaska In Recovery: What If It Happened Here?

Please send this form, your check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

The Special Programs Office
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, CA 94118

No refunds/No exchanges

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Daytime phone _____

Enclosed is a check payable to the California Academy of Sciences for:

_____ member tickets at \$3

_____ guest tickets at \$5

_____ member tickets for the lecture and reception \$13

_____ non-member tickets for the lecture and reception \$15

Travel

Colorful Belize Awaits the Traveler



Mary Dell Lucas

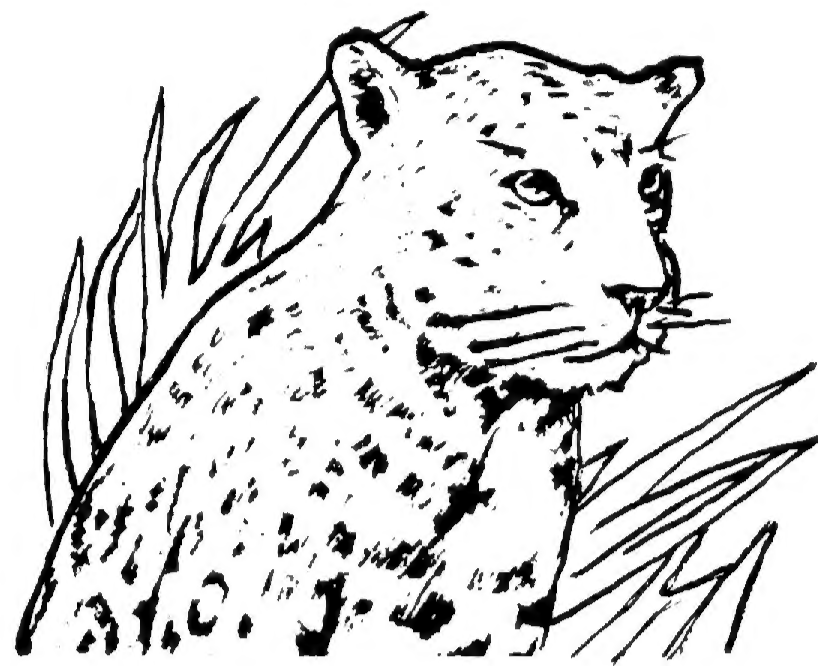
A temple at Tikal

Picture yourself in a tropical paradise, surrounded by lush jungles filled with colorful birds and flowers; imagine swimming in the warm blue waters of a quiet lagoon and exploring the temples of ancient civilizations...Experience all of this and more on an Academy tour to colorful Belize, located on the famed Yucatan Peninsula. Led by Sharon Matola, Founder and Director of the Belize Zoo, this two-week tour from February 18 to March 2 will take you through some of the best of what Belize has to offer:

- Float down the "New River," a natural habitat for sunning turtles and frogs while toucans and flowers dot the jungle canopy with brilliant color;
- Re-discover the hidden temples and palaces of the Mayas at Tikal;
- Cruise to a private island and snorkel on the coral reef— later, learn about reef ecology at the Smithsonian Marine Biology Station;
- Stroll through the Belize Zoo, an unusual place where the animals are so tame that visitors can pet them freely.

The cost for this excursion is \$2,132 plus air fare. For more information call (415)750-7222 or write to the Academy Travel Office, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118.

Discover Belize



Lecture

"The Natural Wonders of Belize"

Thursday, September 21

8:00 p.m.

The Academy and the San Francisco Zoological Society will present a special lecture by Sharon Matola, Director of the Belize Zoo, in the Academy's Morrison Auditorium on Thursday, September 21 at 8:00 p.m. Sharon will share her experiences as a tour guide in Central America and how her role as assistant on a natural history film project inspired her to establish the Belize Zoo. As a result of her efforts and dedication, the zoo has become a dynamic center for education, conservation and wildlife

protection. This is a great opportunity to hear more about the beauty and diversity of Belize and to meet Sharon, who will lead an Academy tour to that country in February of next year. Tickets for this lecture are free to Academy and Zoological Society members and \$5 for non-members. For more information, call (415)750-7217.



Escape to Far Corners of the World in 1990

The Academy's newest travel program offers exciting adventures to a wide variety of destinations all over the world, accompanied by experts whose knowledge adds immensely to the enjoyment of the trip. Enjoy fun-filled days in beautiful locations while learning more about the inspiring world of natural history.

Antarctica

January 13-26

Lecturer: Dr. Kathy Ann Miller

Tanzania Safari

February 1-16

Lecturer: Beth Dunbar

Baja California

March 4-11

Leader: Dr. Jim Kelley

Springtime Gardens of England

May 9-26

Indonesia: Secret Islands

East of Bali

June 3-20

*Lecturers: Dr. John McCosker and
Dr. Stephen Jay Gould*

In the Wake of the Vikings:

Bergen to Reykjavik

July 26-August 10

Alaska and the

Queen Charlotte Islands

September 9-23

Lecturer: Dr. David Kavanaugh

Fall in Vermont

September

Pakistan and India

September 25-October 17

Lecturer: Nancy Pickford

Brazil and Argentina

November

For more information on Academy Expeditions, call the Academy's Travel Office at (415)750-7222.

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Time Dated Material
Please Expedite

Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118-9961
(415) 221-5100

Open daily 10 am to 5 pm

September 1989



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September at the Academy

Continuing Exhibits:
DinoFest '89 through September 10
Bay Area Birds
Young People's Photography Contest Winners

- 2,3,4 DinoFest Activities
- 9 Traditional Arts—Afro-American music, 1:00 p.m.
- 13 Members' Meeting, 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Members' Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- 15 Sky Show, "A Cosmic View" begins
- 16 Traditional Arts—Ladino music, 1:00 p.m.
- 21 Lecture: Belize, 8:00 p.m.
- 23 Traditional Arts—Puppet show, "Beauty and the Beast," 1:00 p.m.
- 30 Traditional Arts—Chinese acrobats & music, 1:00 p.m.



New
From the
Academy
Store

Birds of a feather sip nectar together on our new line of Hummingbird Mugs. Four different species, Allen's, Rufous, Anna's and Calliope are accurately depicted in pastel colors on delicate pearl-colored stoneware. Ideal for gift-giving or for afternoon tea in the garden, the boxed set sells for \$21.95. These beautiful hummingbirds join our popular Tropical Fish and Whale Mug Sets as the perfect souvenir of your visit. Available now in the Academy Store.

Coming Up in October

- 10 Members' Open House, A-L
- 11 Members' Open House, M-Z
- 14 "When the Rainbow Touches Down" opens
- 25 Panel Discussion: "Alaska in Recovery"
- 31 Planetarium Lecture: "By the Heat of the Night"